## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AGENTS CONTAINING THEM

Honorable Commissioner

for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

In reply to the Office action of December 15, 2006, it is respectfully requested that the following remarks and the attached amendments!) be entered and considered for further prosecution of the above-identified application.

It is further respectfully requested that a one month extension of time be granted in this case. The respective \$120.00 fee, as well as a fee for one additional depending claim in excess of 20 in the total amount of \$50.00, is paid herewith by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed).

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 14.1437. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
NOVAK DRUCE DELUCA & QUIGG

/James Remenick/ James Remenick Reg. No. 36,902

Customer No.: 26474 1300 Eye Street, N.W. Suite 1000 West Tower Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 659-0100

Encl.: CLAIM AMENDMENTS (Appendix I)

JR/BAS

<sup>1)</sup> Cf. the Claim Amendments set forth in Appendix I on pages 9 to 14 of this paper.